

REMARKS

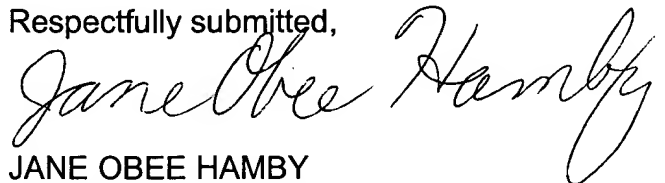
In the Office Action mailed on March 14, 2003, restriction between the inventions of Groups I and II, respectively, was required. In addition, an election of species between the species of Figs. 2 and 2B, and the species of Figs. 3 and 3A for the invention of Group I was required. In a telephone conversation on March 7, 2003, Applicants' undersigned attorney provisionally elected to prosecute the invention of Group I and Species A with traverse. Applicants' undersigned Attorney hereby affirms this election. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 4 – 6 as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants undersigned Attorney notes that claim 4 should not have been withdrawn from consideration, since it was dependent on a claim which was generic to both Species A and B. However, this point is rendered moot by the amendment of claim 1 in this Amendment.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beeck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,146,566. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeck. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrier et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,229,330. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the steam distribution ring includes a skirt portion generally perpendicular to the distribution ring. Antecedent basis for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 7, lines 13 – 31. It is respectfully submitted that neither Beeck or Ferrier discloses such a skirt portion. Therefore, reconsideration of the patentability of claims 1 – 3 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 – 6 have been canceled by this Amendment, while preserving Applicants' rights to file a divisional thereon.

A Petition for an Extension of Time for three months is filed concurrently herewith. Should any further fee be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such further fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



JANE OBEE HAMBY
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
REGISTRATION NO. 32,872
TELEPHONE: 302-892-7907
FACSIMILE: 302-892-7925

Dated: September 12, 2003